

Guiding Principles Regarding Biomass Fuels

On April 18, 2008 the AQMD Board directed staff to work with legislative authors to ensure that the District's concerns are addressed pursuant to the following principles:

1. The responsible state agency is to demonstrate, using applicable full-cycle analysis, that the recommended action(s) will provide net reduction of green house gas emissions including land use impacts.
2. Wherever possible, legislation to incentivize or expand the production or use of biomass fuels should also require criteria pollutant emission reductions.
3. At minimum, any legislation to incentivize or expand the production or use of biomass fuels should first require that there is no net increase of any criteria air pollutant or toxic air contaminant including local emissions of oxides of nitrogen.

Sample language:

The requirements under this section shall not go into effect unless the state board finds in a public hearing that the use of renewable biomass-based fuel will not result in any increase in emissions of air pollutants, including local emissions of oxides of nitrogen or toxic air contaminants, based on a full life cycle analysis that quantifies and takes into account the emissions from the production, distribution, sale, and use of the fuel.

4. The state should conduct a study of the impact of increased biomass fuel production on food costs and supplies.
5. Production, distribution, and use of bio-mass fuels should not be exempt from applicable air pollution control rules and regulations, including New Source Review.